

The American Youth Foundation, 3713 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

December

1936

HELLO! HELLO! HELLO!

Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Campers! It's great to be writing to you again. Seems as though it were just yesterday that we all sat around the closing camp fire in our farewell ceremonials which marked the close of the great 1936 camp.

TIME SURE DOES PASS QUICKLY

and here we are at the "half-way" mark between camps, saying "Happy New Year!" to each other. It is hard to believe that within six months ... think of it ... our Miniwanca dunes will be echoing the joyous shouts and yells of the 1937 campers. But Father Time says it really is true and the calendar proves it, so we just must believe it.

ALREADY MANY PLACES

have been reserved by old and new campers. The dad of one of our Y.B. campers writes: "I'll have three boys in my family of Younger Boys' Camp age next summer and I am planning to send all of them to Camp Miniwanca if you will take them."

I WAS DOWN IN LOUISIANA

last week and several families from "way down South" are planning on sending campers to Miniwanca next summer. It is very interesting to me to note the number of "new families" who are signing up their boys early this year ... to be sure of a place. Another new camper registration came in this morning from Louisiana, Missouri, this time, and still another from Chicago. A letter from Kentucky arrived yesterday saying: "We have two boys in our family and would like to send them both to Camp Miniwanca next summer."

MANY OLD CAMPERS, TOO,

have already made reservations for the 1937 camps ... Bob and Bud Billett's cards were among the first to come in. Bob Reynolds' probably took the prize for early registration: his card was signed last July. Junior Jensen, John Christian,

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Stanley Morris, Sam Swanson, Don Gantner, Skip Post are among the early registrants. Others have written about camp and their reservation blanks will undoubtedly be forthcoming soon.

THE GROSS ENROLLMENT

of the 1937 camp will be set at 80 boys for the 11-12-13-14 year sections and 40 boys for the Pre-Senior Camp. This gives us camps of fine workable size ... not too big a crowd and yet large enough to have keen competition and plenty of enthusiasm in each of the three sections of the camp.

WHAT I AM ANXIOUS TO DO

is to have our old campers, and of course, that means their families, actually pick the boys who are to comprise our 1937 camp. A camp of personally invited boys is bound to have in it a lot of top-notch fellows and that means a good camp right from the start.

MANY OF YOU

have already sent in lists of names of friends ... prospective campers. I am inclined to think that Harold Knight takes first place with his list of names, and what a choice list it was. Thanks a lot, Harold. Some of you have not yet sent in your recommendations and I want to urge you to do so right away. It would be a good time to do this over the holiday season, so that we can include your friends in the first release of material that goes out to prospect families. Right after the first of the year, we plan to send a monthly news-letter to the parents of camp prospects.

REMEMBER!!!!

you, being a former Miniwanca camper, will receive a credit on your own camp fee of \$15.00 for every new seven-week camper you register ... \$12.50 for every six-week camper ... and \$10.00 for every four-week camper. The new camper, of course, must not only be registered but he must attend camp for one of the above designated periods.

SO YOU SEE

you can earn a nice amount toward your own camp fee if you will get busy and sign up some of your friends. We prefer to advertise the camps among our friends in this quiet way rather than put a lot of money in an expensive camp prospectus. Be sure to tell your mother and dad about this. The offer applies only to families whose children have attended at least one summer camp at Miniwanca.

SO MUCH FOR WHO'S GOING TO ATTEND

next summer's camp. Now let's take a look at the camp grounds and see what has happened, and what in all probability will happen up there before camp begins next June.

IN THE FIRST PLACE

just keep in mind the fact that Miniwanca is a rustic, woodsy camp, and we always want to keep it so. There is just one difficulty, however, in trying to keep a

#3

"woodsy" out-of-doors atmosphere in a camp and that is the temptation to become negligent in the matter of neatness and orderliness ... a sort of yielding to the feeling that since we are out in the "wide open spaces" one doesn't have to keep things cleaned up like we do at home.

THERE WERE TIMES LAST SUMMER

for instance, when I had to apologize to parents and guests for the condition of our Y.B. Clubhouse, and the Craft House, and certain parts of the grounds. Perhaps we were counting too much on the campers to keep things in order. I have a feeling that that is one of the real reasons why things were out of whack at times. Of course, along with the rest of the country, we did have a very dry summer and there was more dust than is usually the case, but that can't explain away an untidy clubhouse, so I'm afraid we'll all have to assume our share of the blame and just resolve that "we'll never do it again."

FOR OUR PART

several things are going to be done next summer to overcome this difficulty. In the first place, we are going to have a full-time grounds and building man on the job in the Younger Boys' Camp, and "old man Dust" and his twin brother "Scraps of Paper" and their first cousin "Chairs in Confusion" (all mixed up in the Lodge) and other similar objectional features are certainly going to get what is coming to them. Yes, we can have a "woodsy" camp but we can also have a clean and orderly camp and that is objective #1 for next summer. So-o-o-o, old camper, please take notice. You'll like it, I know.

AND SPEAKING OF DUST -

one of the jobs of that new groundsman will be to sprinkle every day the areas where we have the most traffic. And on the trails, up to the ceremonial Council Circle and Hillside, for example, we are going to put a straw covering, and build in rough log steps which will keep the sand in place and prevent the "scuffing," "Shuffling," footwork of the campers when they go up and down those trails.

AND THEN ... HOLD YOUR BREATH -

but don't count on it dead sure, until we can say more about it ... well, what would you say if next summer when you come to Miniwanca you would find a lovely new Eating Lodge perched up on the ridge overlooking Stony Lake? Can you picture that? Dong! dong! dong! goes the dinner bell and instead of pounding across the trail to the old Lodge, behold, you just slip up on the ridge to your own Eating Lodge where you can look out over Stony Lake while you eat your meals. That plan, if we can just work it out by next summer would also cut out some of the dust on the trail when the weather is dry, and it would also give us more time to work out our daily program.

WELL, WE'RE HONESTLY TRYING

to bring this to pass before next summer. What do you think of the idea? I'd sure like to have your come-back on this. It means finding a lot of money somewhere, and a lot of additional work and an increased staff but we feel it will be best for the Boys' Camp to have their own Eating Lodge, and so, we're going to try to put this big job across. The new Eating Lodge, by the way, will have

lots and lots of light, a big fireplace, and a porch ... on the ridge - Oh boy!

SPEAKING OF SPRINKLING AND WATER

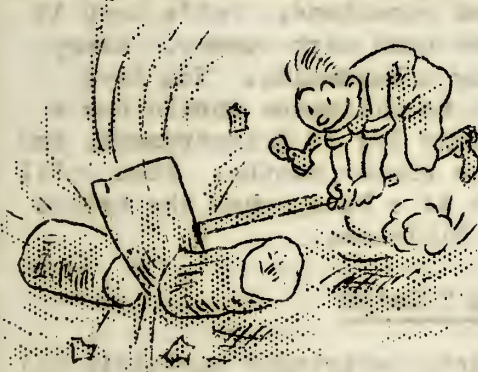
reminds me, too, that we are going to have a new water system over in the Y. B. Camp ... a big heavy duty typhoon pump that will pump 2500 gallons an hour. Hooray for the new water system and the shower baths and all of that!

NOW DON'T YOU GET WORRIED

about those shower baths. We'll have them working all right by next summer and we'll get that good, hot shower and soap bath several times a week - just for the sake of cleanliness and good health. That "Sun Heater" worked fine in the Y. G. Camp and there is no reason why it should not work in Y. B. Camp. The trouble last summer was due to an incorrect hook-up. This will be corrected so that we can surely look forward to some good hot baths next summer.

THE FOUR-WAY LOG LODGE

has been completed and it is a wonderful building. I know you can hardly wait until you get back to camp next summer so that we can all try it out and see how it works. The fireplace in the center of the building with the big hood and collapsible pipe on pulleys overhead, will make it possible for us to have Low Council meetings indoors on nights when the weather may not be so good for outdoor activities. The fellows of the 1936 camp certainly did a wonderful piece of work in connection with the building of this new lodge. It certainly is a dandy!



AND BY THE WAY

what would you think if I were to tell you that the porch of the Younger Boys' Lodge has been extended clear across the front of the entire building and around the north side? This will give us much needed room for the ping pong tables and for other activities which we may want to hold under cover on days when the weather is not so good.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE NEW HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY QUARTERS

in the Younger Boys' Camp next summer. The old craft room under the Lodge will be made over into a dispensary and first aid headquarters. Additional equipment will be added, which will enable those in charge of this department of our camp life to give prompt and efficient help to those who may need first aid. This will be a very fine addition to our equipment in the Younger Boy unit, for it will relieve the congestion in the main room of the Lodge, and this will be another factor in enabling us to keep the Lodge in ship-shape order.

OUTBOARD MOTOR RACES

Does this caption arouse your interest in the waterfront department of our camp? There is just a fine possibility that we will have a number of outboard motors in the camp equipment next summer, so that in addition to sailboat races, we may

also stage some tribal outboard events. This would give the mechanically-minded campers a chance to demonstrate their ability as mechanics and pilots, and it would certainly add a great deal of interest to our already attractive program of waterfront activities.

OUR FISHERMEN

last summer acquitted themselves nobly. Under the leadership of Ed Cherbonnier, this department mapped out a fine program for the boys who were particularly interested in this sport. It is our hope that the program may be extended next summer so as to include some fly casting. Fishing is a great sport. Every boy who comes to Camp Miniwanca should at some time enter into this activity.

OUR HARMONICA BAND

was successful far beyond our expectations. Well do we remember the fine way in which they performed for us at the Little Theatre and on other occasions. Let's keep it up and increase the size of the band next summer. Every boy should know how to play a harmonica. You boys who are planning to return to Miniwanca should buy a fifty-cent Hohner Marine Band Key of C instrument, and learn to play it during the winter months. Then we'll certainly have a band that is a band, when the tribes meet again next summer at Miniwanca.

AND SPEAKING OF THE LITTLE THEATRE

Barney Blakemore and his Fine Arts Department certainly did ring the bell with their fine performances in "Cedar Sand" Theatre. Barney started from scratch, with absolutely nothing to work on except the interest of the boys. This group located the site of the Little Theatre and then everybody pitched in and worked vigorously in the building of the outdoor theatre. An amazing amount of progress was made this first year in this new department of our camp program. The various performances given by the Little Theatre group brought forth much praise and admiration from campers and leaders, and particularly from our guests who were fortunate enough to be invited to the various performances. Our hats are off to you, Barney, and you members of the Little Theatre group! We are looking for some fine improvements and some very entertaining plays which you will certainly have in store for us next summer.

DISCOVERY DUNE

was one of the great surprises for us at Miniwanca this past summer. We have often made the statement that one can ramble up and down Camp Miniwanca for weeks and months and literally years, and still not see everything that is to be seen on the camp property. This was demonstrated this past summer by the opening up of the very attractive dune which lies directly back of Baseball Diamond #1. Here was a lovely spot, right in the midst of our Younger Boys' Camp, which had never before been officially used for camp activities. The building of the new Pre-

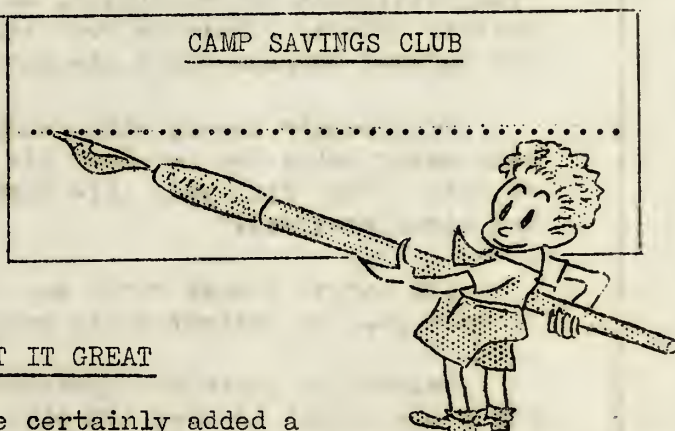
Senior Unit made it necessary to find a new spot for the Hillside service, and this led to the discovery of "Discovery Dune." Within a hundred and fifty yards of each other are located two magnificent sites for Hillside services - the one overlooking Stony Lake and the other facing the sunset and Lake Michigan. It is hard to tell which of the two is the more attractive, because our services somehow or other seem to take on new meaning in these lovely spots above the camp and lake level below. We shall never forget the wonderful messages given us by our camp leaders in those Hillside services, nor shall we forget the fine leadership given those services by the Younger Boy campers who were called upon to lead these meetings.

THE PRE-SENIOR CAMP WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

At first it was decided that this camp should be limited to twenty boys. This number was later increased to thirty-two, and we finally wound up with a total enrollment of thirty-eight boys. The Pre-Senior fellows are all in agreement that the new arrangement gave them one of the best summers they have ever had at Camp Miniwanca. It is certain that this is going to be an increasingly attractive and important department of our Founder Camps. The Pre-Senior fellows who were there last summer are urged to begin at once to search carefully among their friends and comrades so that they might recommend high-grade boys for enrollment in the Pre-Senior unit for the coming summer. We want every boy to be personally chosen and personally endorsed by an old camper or leader. Names and addresses of prospective Pre-Senior campers should be mailed in at once to the Founder office so that these boys may receive full information concerning the plans for the coming summer.

THE CAMP SAVINGS CLUB

is in full operation. An increasing number of parents are using this plan of accumulating their boys' camp fees. It is not too late to get into the Camp Savings Club. Those who plan to join should make it a point to start not later than January. Full information concerning the Camp Savings Club has already been sent to Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Campers. If you have mislaid your copy, write at once for a duplicate.



WASN'T IT GREAT

to have Kodaya with us last summer? He certainly added a lot to the life of the camp, and the Pre-Seniors who were fortunate enough to be in his daily Ideals Class will never forget the interesting way in which Kodaya interpreted the history and romance and spiritual meaning of the Book of Books.

WELL, WE CAN'T GO ON FOREVER,

so we'll bring these little chats to a close. How I wish we had the time to write and tell you of all the messages that have come to you from your leaders of the 1936 camp. Already a large number of these old leaders are planning to return to Miniwanca for another year of service in the Younger Boys' and Pre-Senior

Camps. All these leaders, I know, will want me to say a big "Howdy!" to you for them, and they also want me to urge you to get in your application real soon, in the event of your not having already done so.

MINISINO, HORACE, DAD, AND KODAYA

all join with me in wishing every camper and leader a HAPPY and HEALTHFUL and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! Let us all remember the messages that came to us at Miniwanca and particularly the challenge to live our lives four-foldly and to be our best selves all the time. By so doing, we are sure to have a happy new year, and we'll bring joy and happiness to ourselves and to our parents and to our friends. That's one of the great privileges of a Founder camper, and I know that every Miniwanca fellow will do his best to hold high THE TORCH!

Drop me a note and tell me what you are doing. I am particularly anxious to have items of news for the next issue of The Trail.

With Founderly good wishes, I am

Most sincerely yours,

WADJEPI

THE BIG THING IS TO DO IT!

Kit Carson was a rugged frontiersman who continually risked his life for his country. Bearing government messages from California to Washington, he galloped into Santa Fe for further orders. There he received word that the war department had refused to make him a Lieutenant in the Army.

With danger ahead, with Comanche Indians on the warpath, with water holes few to slack his thirst, his friends urged him to quit. "Why risk your life when you are not ever appreciated, let alone rewarded."

Kit Carson's only reply was, "The big thing is to do it." He rode on. He delivered his message in Washington.

Before his death the government which had refused to make him a Lieutenant honored him with the rank of Brigadier General. In the end, "The big thing is to do it."

As the New Year begins, have you an absorbing, compelling "Big Thing" that immediately challenges you? Then DO IT!

-- MINISINO (Wm. H. Danforth)